

To:
Audiologists
Hearing
Instrument
Specialists
Speech and
Hearing Clinics
HMOs and Other
Managed Care
Programs

Prior Authorization Requests for Hearing Aids No Longer Sent to Recipient

Effective for prior authorization (PA) requests received on and after April 1, 2006, the *billing* provider indicated on the PA request for a hearing aid is the only billing provider authorized to dispense the hearing aid. This applies to initial submissions and resubmissions (i.e., PA requests that were returned to the provider and resubmitted to Wisconsin Medicaid). Copies of PA requests for hearing aids will no longer be sent to the recipient. Providers are encouraged to inform recipients of this change.

When a PA request is modified or denied, Wisconsin Medicaid will continue to notify the recipient through a Notice of Appeals Rights letter. As a reminder, providers are required to discuss a modified or denied PA request with the recipient. Providers should refer to the Prior Authorization section of the All-Provider Handbook for more information about a recipient's right to appeal a decision.

Information Regarding Medicaid HMOs

This *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* contains Medicaid fee-for-service policy and applies to providers of services to recipients on fee-for-service Medicaid only. For Medicaid HMO or managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Wisconsin Medicaid HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Although the *Update* refers to Medicaid recipients, all information applies to BadgerCare recipients also.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare are administered by the Division of Health Care Financing, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/.

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